

The Story of Prophet Musa Punching the Angel of Death

by

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The hadith is as follows:

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) having said: That the Angel of Death came to Moses and said: Respond (to the call) of Allah (i. e. be prepared for death). Moses (peace be upon him) gave a blow at the eye of the Angel of Death and knocked it out. The Angel went back to Allah (the Exalted) and said: 'You sent me to your servant who does not like to die and he knocked out my eye.' Allah restored his eye to its proper place (and revived his eyesight) and said: Go to My servant and say: Do you want life? And in case you want life, keep your hand on the body of the ox and you would live such number of years as the (number of) hair your hand covers. He (Moses) said: What, then? He said: Then you would die, whereupon he (Moses) said: Then why not now? (He then prayed): Allah, cause me to die close to the sacred land.

This was narrated in Bukhari and Muslim.

Some argue that Prophet Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) was disobedient and did not heed the commands of the angel of death. Two essential points to consider are:

1) Prophet Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) did not know that this was the angel of the death.

Shaykh Abdul Azeez Ar-Raajhi said:

لأن بعض المبتدعة أنكروه معللا ذلك بأنه يمتنع أن موسى يلطم الملك، ونرد عليهم بأن الملك أتى موسى بصورة إنسان لا يعرف موسى من هو، يطلب منه نفسه، فمقتضى الطبيعة البشرية أن يدافع المطلوب عن نفسه

Some among the Ahlul Bid'ah rejected this alleging that it is impossible that Musa would smack an angel. We respond to them saying that the angel approached Musa in human form while Musa did not know who he was. It is human nature that one would defend himself.

2) Prophet Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) was not initially given the choice between life and death.

In Saheeh Al-Bukhari - Volume 5, Book 59, Number 719, 'Aisha said:

كنت أسمع أنه لا يموت نبي حتى يخير بين الدنيا والآخرة

I used to hear that no Prophet dies till he is given the option to select either the worldly life or the life of the Hereafter.

[Read more about this statement [here](#)]

Given that the angel of death initially approached Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) and did not offer him this choice, it becomes clear to us that Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) was not fighting the Qadr of Allah here. In fact, when the angel of death later came back to Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) with the alternative, Musa ('alayhi as-salaam) cooperated.

In a nutshell, there is nothing objectionable to be found in this hadith.

Recommended Reading

<http://bayanelislam.net/Suspicion.as...1&value=&type=>

<http://portal.shrajhi.com/Media/ID/6724>

<http://www.ahlalhdeeth.com/vb/showthread.php?t=212777>

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